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RAUSCHENBUSCH, WALTER. *Christianizing the Social Order*. Pp. xii, 493, Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

When Dr. Rauschenbusch wrote his challenge to the churches in *Christianity and the Social Crisis*, it seemed as if he had done his work. What more was there to say? How else could the problem be treated? That volume was a trumpet call to enthusiastic Christian work.

Christianity and the Social Crisis has been surpassed. Dr. Rauschenbusch has written another book, dealing immediately with the institutions of modern society. First he shows a religious background in tradition, custom and heresay. Then he points to the religious influence as it has affected the home, the church, the state. Last of all he deals with industry, depicting in all its embittering brutality the barbarous struggle which from day to day seethes to and fro before the eyes of the searcher after truth. In every institution, says Dr. Rauschenbusch, the spirit of Christianity has been felt. In industry alone the spirit of barbarism, the struggle of the brute still holds sway. To such an extent is this true, that were industry put on an island alone and isolated from the other social institutions which now surround it, it would be an object of missionary endeavor on the part of Christendom. Yet even industry, the author points out, is feeling the effects, and will feel the effects still more of the Christianizing influence as industry for profit is replaced by industry for service.

The author underestimates the importance of the spirit of service running abroad in industry. He overstates the relative impetus which social ideals have gained in the other institutions, as compared with industry. Yet, in the main, his picture is terribly true, and his diagnosis of the difficulty is infallibly correct. From this book the economist turns with wonder. He has been wont to regard the theologian as a man who deals with things apart, a man unacquainted with modern thought, or with the doings of the modern world. A thoughtful reading of this wonderful book will open the eyes of the vast majority of economists to truths in their own field of thought, which they at present barely suspect.

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ROBERTSON, J. M. *The Evolution of States: An Introduction to English Politics*. Pp. ix, 487. Price, \$2.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1913.

As the preface shows, this book is "an expansion, under a new name," of the author's *Introduction to English Politics*, published in 1900. It consists of a series of sketches showing the historical evolution of the various European nations, and closes with a sketch of English history from the Revolution to the time of Queen Anne. In each case the author discusses only the domestic politics; international politics being regarded as a distinct subject, and apparently as not affecting domestic politics. He says (p. 1): "As international politics is the sum of the strifes and compromises of states, so home politics is the sum of the strifes and compromises of classes, interests, factions, sects, theorists, in all countries and in all ages."

The first third of the book is devoted to the political, economic and culture forces emanating from Greece and Rome. These chapters cover the history of countries which formed parts of the Byzantine and the Holy Roman empires. The Italian republics, Switzerland, Holland, the Scandinavian countries, Portugal and the British Islands are treated separately. In each case the author concludes that national deterioration is not due to national traits of character or to any natural law of growth and decay, but to lack of effort on the part of the people and their governments to understand the causes of deterioration, and to their failure to provide proper political machinery for compromising and adjusting conflicts between classes and interests. He says (p. 179) that "what led Greece to dissolution and Rome to downfall, was the primary impulse to combat, the inability to refrain from jealousy, hate and war." Of the Italian republics he says (p. 239): "The central fact of disunion in Italian life . . . analyzes down to the eternal conflict of interests of the rich and the poor, the very rich and the less rich."

The present differs from the past, in the opinion of the author, in that we are now consciously directing the course of our own evolution. We have realized that by studying the history and characteristics of peoples and nations, we can discover what is wrong with ourselves and with our communities, and invent processes and institutions for making the necessary compromises and adjustments between the conflicting interests of classes. Thus modern politics has become the science which deals with the structure and working of communities. It assumes the possibility of infinite improvement of the conditions of life by conscious effort directed to this end, and aims to make all political organization more economical and efficient for settling conflicts of interest and thus bringing about justice, order and peace. The author considers that the new politics had its beginning in England, in the reign of Queen Anne, when responsible government was initiated. His conclusion is (p. 471): "With the science of universal evolution has come the faith in unending betterment. And this, when all is said, is the vital difference between ancient and modern politics: that for the ancients the fact of eternal mutation was a law of defeat and decay, while for us it is a law of renewal."

The book may well be pondered by those philosophers who are prone to make prophecies based on alleged historical parallels.

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SELIGMAN, E. R. A. *Essays in Taxation*. Pp. xi, 707. Price \$4.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1913.

This book, first published in 1895, has been enlarged by eight additional essays, while the older essays have been revised and expanded. As progress in the theory and methods of taxation becomes possible, the need for more data increases. In satisfying this demand, Professor Seligman's work has been very helpful. In this book, the author presents a large amount of material, inaccessible to most students. The opinions and conclusions of so accurate and thorough an investigator will receive the most careful consideration.